

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-05 /076 W

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R 071349Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 104

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, ET

SUBJECT: SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL CLOSING?

REFERENCE: 75 ADDIS ABABA 4017

1. SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST-RUN ZAUDITU HOSPITAL, STAFFED AND ADMINISTERED BY AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, CLOSED ITS DENTAL, OUTPATIENT AND APPOINTMENT CLINICS JULY 6. REPORTEDLY, SOME EMERGENCY CASES WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, "UNTIL REMAINING INPATIENTS ARE DISCHARGED."

2. REASON FOR GRADUAL CLOSURE IS CONTINUED LABOR PROBLEM WITH WOULD-BE UNION ORGANIZERS WHO INSIST, INTER ALIA, ON ROLE IN ADMINISTERING HOSPITAL. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, LABOR UNREST HAS BEEN AN INTERMITTENT PROBLEM AT ZAUDITU. IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR CLOSURE IS LAWSUIT BY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES AGAINST ADMINISTRATION TO FORCE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS TO RECOGNIZE AND NEGOTIATE WITH LABOR UNION. CASE HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, BUT MISSIONARIES HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT DECISION WILL GO AGAINST THEM. SINCE THEIR RELIGIOUS PRECEPTS PROHIBIT NEGOTIATING WITH LABOR UNIONS, ADMINISTRATORS FEEL THAT THEIR ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO CLOSE THE HOSPITAL.

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3. COMMENT: DISCUSSION WITH ZAUDITU STAFF MEMBERS INDICATES

THAT THREAT OF CLOSING HOSPITAL IS INTENDED HOPEFULLY TO COMPEL EMPLOYEES TO RECONSIDER EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE LABOR UNION OR, FAILING THAT, TO CONVINCE EPMG TO COME DOWN ON ADVENTISTS' SIDE AGAINST UNION ORGANIZERS AS HAPPENED PREVIOUSLY. IN SPITE OF STAFF MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, WE WILL NOT CONSIDER HOSPITAL CLOSING AS DEFINITIVE UNTIL AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS INDICATE PLANS TO RETURN TO US. AS ZAUDITU IS THE ONLY HOSPITAL IN ADDIS APPROACHING WESTERN STANDARDS, ITS POSSIBLE DEFINITIVE CLOSURE WOULD REPRESENT A SEVERE DEGRADATION OF MEDICAL CARE IN THIS CITY. AT PRESENT, ONLY ZAUDITU PHYSICIANS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM IV MEDICAL EXAMS. WE ARE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE OF ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN SELECTION OF NEW PANEL OF PHYSICIANS, HOWEVER, FINAL SELECTION MAY TAKE SOME TIME. WE HAVE HEARD (BUT YET TO CONFIRM) THAT DIRG DOES NOT WISH HOSPITAL TO CLOSE AND MAY YET ACT TO BLOCK LABOR ORGANIZERS, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLY DIFFICULT FOR THIS SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.

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